

# Challenging Grammar – ANL21003BA/AN21040MA/AN1050MA

2-credit seminar  
Spring 2021

## Course Description

This course is a follow-up to *Introduction to Linguistics*. Its primary goal is to provide students with the tools necessary to analyze various grammatical phenomena within the framework of minimalism. Topics to be covered include categories and features, the Merge operation, Theta Theory, Case Theory and agreement. Although our main focus is the grammar of English, we will also look at data from other languages for cross-linguistic comparison.

## Textbook

Koenenman, Olaf & Hedde Zeiljstra. 2017. *Introducing Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Students are requested to contact the librarians in Room 101 for copies of the chapters to be read for the course.

## Grading

The final grade will be based on a midterm test and an endterm test. Grades on the midterm test will carry a weight of 40% of the final grade, whereas grades on the endterm test will carry a weight of 60%. Retake opportunities will not be available for the two tests.

The grading scale in this course will be as follows:

- 91% - 100% - 5
- 81% - 90% - 4
- 71% - 80% - 3
- 61% - 70% - 2
- 0% - 60% - 1

Grammatical errors will also be taken into account in the calculation of the final grade on both tests.

## Attendance

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included.

## Weekly Syllabus

Week#	Class content	Reading assignments
Week 1	The Language Machine	pp. 1-6
Week 2	Categories and Features	pp. 7-29
Week 3	Merge 1	pp. 30-53

<b>Week 4</b>	Merge 2	
<b>Week 5</b>	Problem sets	
<b>Week 6</b>	Theta Theory 1	pp. 54-77
<b>Week 7</b>	Theta Theory 2	
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Midterm Test</b>	
<b>Week 9</b>	Consultation week – No class	
<b>Week 10</b>	Case Theory 1	pp. 78-109
<b>Week 11</b>	Case Theory 2	
<b>Week 12</b>	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 1	pp. 110-137
<b>Week 13</b>	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 2  Review	
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Endterm Test</b>	

### **Place and Time**

This course will be taught on Webex on Wednesdays (10:00-11:40 a.m.) and Thursdays (8:00-9:40 a.m.).

### **Contact**

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Virtual office hours on Webex: Wednesday 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Thursday 1:00-2:00 p.m.